

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A stirrup buckle for connecting the ends of a stirrup leather to secure the stirrup leather on a stirrup bar, the buckle comprising:

a frame attached, in use, to the stirrup leather at one end region thereof;

a tongue pivotally attached to the frame for penetrating the strap at the other end region thereof and thereafter to bear on the frame to retain the said other end;

and wherein the frame is shaped to form a recess which at least partially receives the stirrup bar, in use.

2. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 1, wherein the frame is curved to define the recess.

3. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 2, wherein the frame defines a concavity when viewed transverse to the length of the strap and in the plain of the strap.

4. (Currently Amended) A stirrup buckle according to ~~claim 2 or 3,~~ claim 2, wherein the frame is generally rectangular in form, comprising side arms extending generally parallel to the strap, and connecting cross bars, at least the side arms being curved to define the recess.

5. (Currently Amended) A stirrup buckle according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ claim 1, wherein the frame includes a pivot bar, the tongue having an eye through which the pivot bar extends to form the pivotal attachment, the tongue being sufficiently long to position the pivot bar clear of the stirrup bar, during use.

6. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 5, wherein the pivot bar is formed to define a pivot axis which is offset in the direction of the recess, relative to the centre line of the frame.

7. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 6, wherein the pivot axis is offset sufficiently that substantially no part of the eye can project beyond the frame, in the direction away from the recess.

8. (Original) A stirrup buckle for connecting the ends of a stirrup leather to secure the stirrup leather on a stirrup bar, the buckle comprising:

a frame attached, in use, to the stirrup leather at one end region thereof;

a tongue pivotally attached to the frame for penetrating the strap at the other end region thereof and thereafter to bear on the frame to retain the said other end;

and wherein the tongue is sufficiently long that the position of the pivotal attachment of the tongue is clear of the stirrup bar, during use.

9. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 8, wherein the frame is shaped to form a recess which at least partially receives the stirrup bar, in use.

10. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 9, wherein the frame includes a pivot bar, the tongue having an eye through which the pivot bar extends to form the pivotal attachment.

11. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 10, wherein the pivot bar is formed to define a pivot axis which is offset in the direction of the recess, relative to the centre line of the frame.

12. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 11, wherein the pivot axis is offset sufficiently that substantially no part of the eye can project beyond the frame, in the direction away from the recess.

13. (Currently Amended) A stirrup buckle according to ~~any of claims 9 to 12,~~ claim 9, wherein the frame is curved to define the recess.

14. (Original) A stirrup buckle according to claim 13, wherein the frame defines a concavity when viewed transverse to the length of the strap and in the plain of the strap.

15. (Currently Amended) A stirrup buckle according to ~~any of claims 9 to 14,~~ claim 9, wherein the frame is generally rectangular in form, comprising side arms extending generally parallel to the strap, and connecting cross bars, at least the side arms being curved to define the recess.

16. (Currently Amended) A stirrup leather which includes a stirrup buckle in accordance with ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 8.

17. (Currently Amended) A saddle arrangement, the saddle having at least one stirrup bar, and the arrangement including at least one stirrup leather as defined in ~~the previous paragraph, for securing to the stirrup bar~~ claim 16.

18-21 (Cancelled)

22. (New) A stirrup leather which includes a stirrup buckle in accordance with claim 1.

23. (New) A saddle arrangement, the saddle having at least one stirrup bar, and the arrangement including at least one stirrup leather as defined in claim 22.